

REMARKS

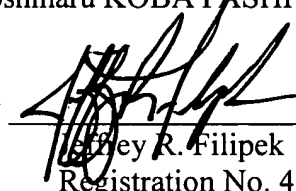
Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 29-56 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshiharu KOBAYASHI et al.

By



Jeffrey R. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
December 15, 2005